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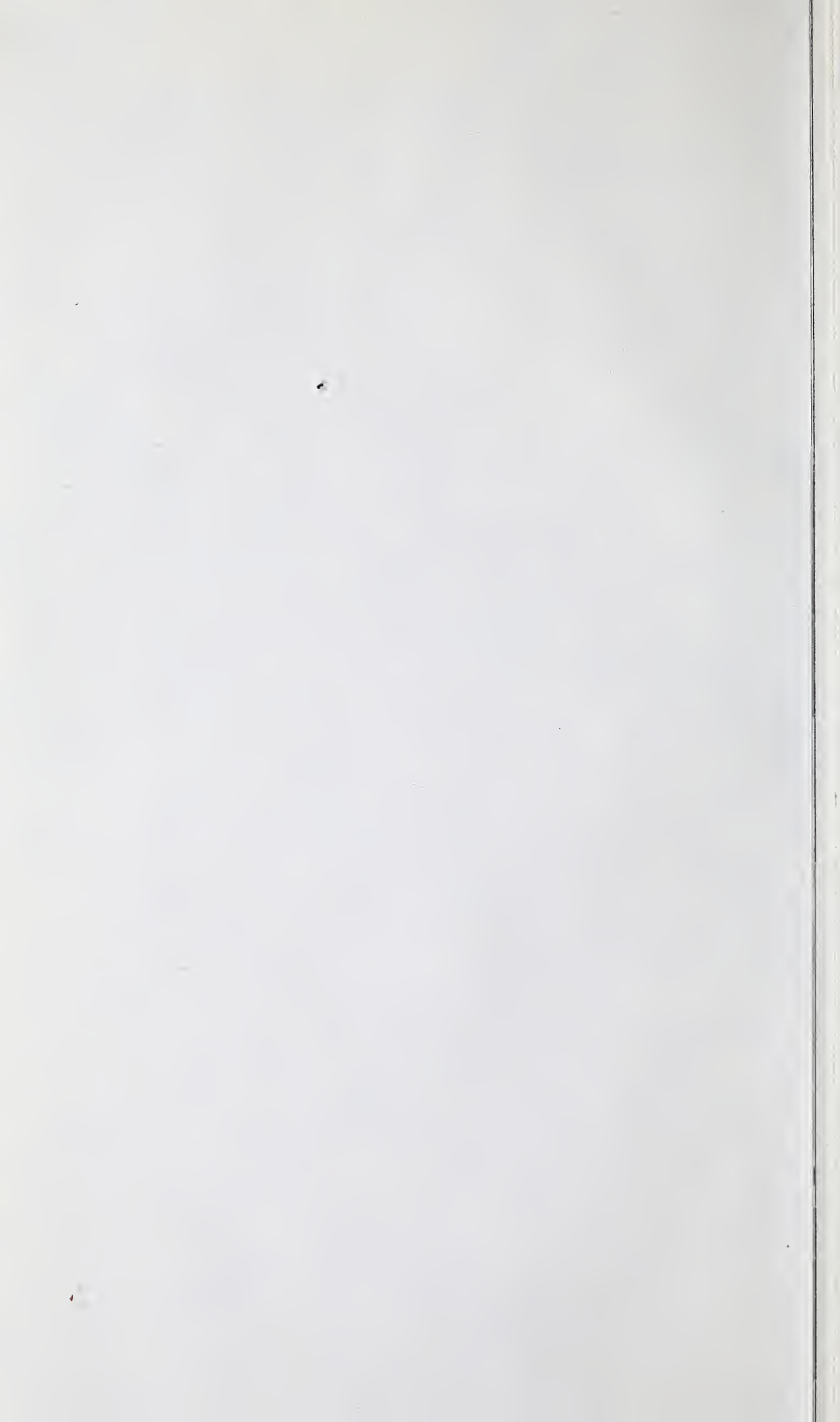
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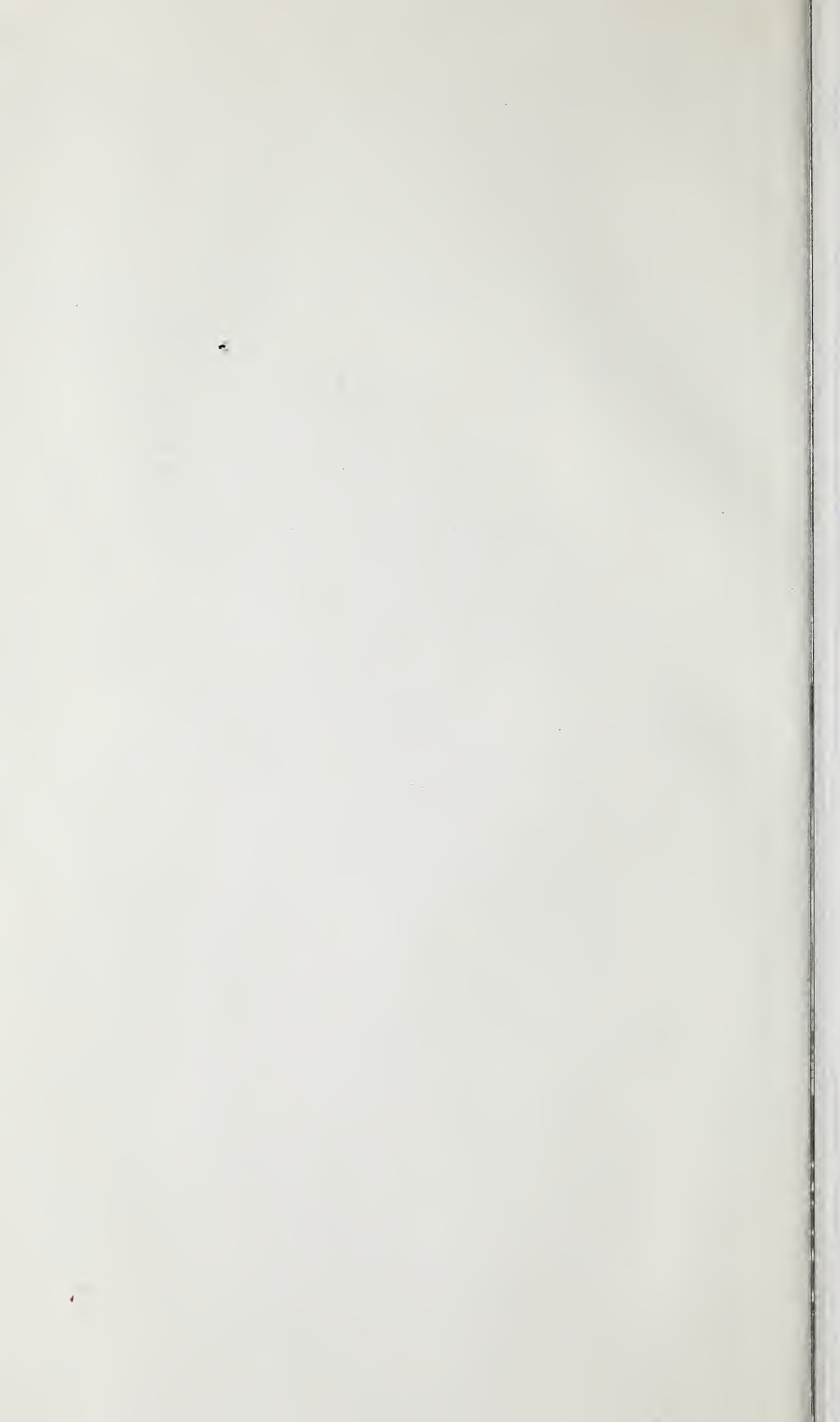


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New England Town Series

EDITED BY

FRANKLIN P. RICE

II

FIRST RECORDS

OF THE

TOWN OF ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS



WORCESTER

MASSACHUSETTS RECORD SOCIETY

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NEW YORK

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First Edition

1900

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FIRST RECORDS

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OF THE

TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS.

I. EARLY HISTORY.

The tract comprehended in this township was formerly called East Hoosac. It was explored and surveyed, and the limits traced, by a committee appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts in 1749, and was laid out seven miles in length from north to south, and five in breadth. In 1750, Col. Williams, the founder of Williams College, obtained from the General Court a grant of two hundred acres, on condition that he should reserve ten acres for the use of the fort, and build a grist-mill and saw-mill, and keep them in repair twenty years for the use of the settlers. On the 2d day of June, 1762, nine townships in the northwest corner of the State were sold at auction by authority of the General Court. Of these, East Hoosac was No. 1. It was purchased by Nathan Jones, Esq., for the sum of £3,200, who after the purchase admitted Col. Elisha Jones and John Murray, Esq., as joint proprietors.

These proprietors, in October of the same year, employed a surveyor to lay out forty-eight settling lots, containing one hundred acres each. A line was drawn through the length of the township, dividing the best of the land into two equal parts, and on each side of this line was laid out a range of lots. . . . Four years after, Isaac Jones, Esq., who then resided in the township,

was authorized to survey a further number of lots, not exceeding twenty, of one hundred acres each, and, as agent of the proprietors, to admit settlers to the number of sixty. This number was mentioned because it was required by the condition of settlement, fixed by vote of the General Court, that when the actual settlers should amount to that number, they should build a meeting-house, and settle a "learned gospel minister." The rest of the land was laid out in 1768 into lots of two hundred acres each, and divided among the proprietors according to their shares in the property of the township.

Most of the first settlers of this town were from Connecticut. Of these, Abiel Smith, Gideon and Jacob, his sons, John Kilbourn, his son-in-law, and John McNeil, were from Litchfield; Reuben Hinman and Jonathan Smith came from Woodbury. There were also the names of Parker, Cook and Leavenworth from Wallingford; and Rev. Samuel Todd, from Lanesborough, was previously from Woodbury. These people settled in the north village. The first settlers mostly disposed of their lands to purchasers from Rhode Island, many of whom belonged to the Society of Friends, and the population gradually changed till nearly all had sold out and removed from the town.

The first settlers formed themselves into a Congregational church and society. Their first minister was the Rev. Samuel Todd. The first meeting-house was built of logs, and was situated near the center of the town. The Friends' society was formed in the year 1781. David Anthony, Isaac Killy, Isaac Upton, Joshua Lapham, George Lapham, and Adam Hartness, with their families, constituted the society at its first organization.—*Barber's Historical Collections of Massachusetts.*

the same, but the difference is a very important one. The first is the fact that the first is a very important one. The second is the fact that the second is a very important one. The third is the fact that the third is a very important one. The fourth is the fact that the fourth is a very important one. The fifth is the fact that the fifth is a very important one. The sixth is the fact that the sixth is a very important one. The seventh is the fact that the seventh is a very important one. The eighth is the fact that the eighth is a very important one. The ninth is the fact that the ninth is a very important one. The tenth is the fact that the tenth is a very important one.

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II. FIRST ENTRIES IN THE TOWN BOOK.

At a Society meeting of the Inhabitants of East Hoosack on the 23rd January 1778

- 1st Voted Justus Holt Moderator
 - 2nd Voted Reuben Hinman Clerk
 - 3rd Voted that a Committee be appointed to Offer Conditions of Settlement to M^r Todd whereby he may be Discharged
 - 4th Voted that Ambross Parker John Kilburn and Amasa Ives be a Committee for that Purpose
 - 5th Voted that the Conditions to be offered M^r Todd be—
That Provided M^r Todd Relinquish all Right and Title to all Ministerial Land in this Town he be Discharged from the work of the Ministry
-

April 19th 1779

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and convened on the 19th of April 1779

- 1st made choice of M^r. John Eaton Moderator
 - 2nd Voted that Jeremiah Collins^s. wages be made good to him Agreeable to an act of the General Court
 - 3rd Voted Uananimously for a new Constitution present 44
 - 4th Voted to empower a Deligate with instructions to Join in Convention for Framing Said Constitution
- Meeting Dissolved
-

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

March 8th 1779 Annual March Meeting

The Town of Adams Incorporated

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and Convened on the 8th of march 1779

II. THE COMMISSION IN THE YEAR 1900

At a meeting of the Commission held on the 10th of January 1900, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
2. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
3. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
4. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
5. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
6. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
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8. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
9. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.
10. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1900.

III. THE COMMISSION IN THE YEAR 1901

At a meeting of the Commission held on the 10th of January 1901, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
2. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
3. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
4. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
5. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
6. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
7. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
8. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
9. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.
10. That the Commission should continue its work for the year 1901.

- 1st Made choice of Cap^t. Phillip Mason for Moderator
 2nd made choice of Isaac Arnold for Town Clerk
 3rd Cap^t. Phillip Mason
 4th made choice of Cap^t. Israel Jones } Select
 5th Cap^t. Reuben Hinman } men
 6th. made choice of Cap^t. Reuben Hinman for Town Treasurer
- 7th. Luther Rich
 8th. made choice of David Jewell } Assessors
 9th. Eleazer Brown }
- Meeting adjourned to the 22nd Instant
 March 22nd met according to Adjournment
10. Edmund Jencks
 11 Benjⁿ Baker } Committee
 12 made choice of William Smith } of
 13 Jedediah Hurd } Safety
 14 John Kilburn }
- 15th. Voted to give the Collectors 9 pence on the pound for Collecting of Rates
- 16 made choice of Lemuel Leavenworth Collector
 17 made choice of William Baker Collector of Taxes
 18 made choice of Elias Jones
 19 Gideon Smith
 20 Jonathan Husse } Surveyors
 21 Stephen Smith } of
 22 Philip Mason } Highways
 23 Ruluff White
 24 Oliver Parker
 25 Jonathan Hale }
- 26 Voted to Raise one Hundred pounds by Town Tax to make and Repair highways to be paid in Labour at 2/6 p^r. day or Indian corn at 2/6 p^r. bushell
27. made choice of David Jewell Sealer of w^{ts}. & Measures
 28 Voted that the Selectmen provide the Weights and Measures for the Town Standard

May 20th 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and convened on the 20th of May 1779

1st made choice of M^r. John Eaton for Moderator

2nd Voted a Town Tax of Seven hundred pounds fourteen shillings to be assessed on the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams and Gathered with the State Tax now in the Collectors hands

3 made choice of Daniel Sherman Surveyor of highways

Meeting Dissolved

June 17th. 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and convened on the 17th June 1779

1st. made choice of Cap^t. Reuben Hinman Moderator

2nd. made choice of Cap^t. Israel Jones Clerk

3rd. made choice of Justus Holt Collector in Lew of Lemuel Leavensworth

4th. made choice of Justus Blakeley Surveyor of Highways in the Roome of Gideon Smith

5 meeting Dissolved

July 5th 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and Convened on 5th July 1779

1st. made choice of John Eaton for Moderator

2nd. Voted to give the Nine months men Ten dollars a month to be paid in Grain at the Stipulated price (viz) Wheat at 6/ Rye at 4/ and Indian Corn at three Shillings p^r. bushel—

And One hundred Continental dollars as a Bounty Before they march

3rd. Meeting Dissolved

July 23rd. 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned & convened on the 23rd July 1779

1st. made choice of Cap^t. Isaac Hathaway Moderator

2nd. Voted that the Selectmen make provision for the men that are Draughted to the place of Rendezvous

3rd. Meeting Dissolved

October 4th. 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and convened on the 4th. of Oct^r. 1779

1st. made choice of Cap^t. Phillip Mason Moderator

2nd. made choice of Elias Jones Clerk of said meeting

3rd. made choice of Samuel Todd Esq^r. to Serve as a Deligate in Convention at Cambridge in Order to form a Constitution or Frame of Government

4th. Samuel Todd Esq^r. was appointed as an Agent for the Town to the General Court to act in behalf of said Town of Adams (Viz) first if possible to Get an Abatement of the State Tax and to Transact any Other Business in Behalf of the Town he shall think Proper

5th. that the [meeting] be adjourned to the 17th Ins^t. Oct^r. at One of the Clock P. M. in Order to see if the Town will Send a Deligate to the County Convention to be holden at Stockbridge on the 28th day of Ins^t. Oct^r.

Oct^r. 28th 1779 Met Agreeable to Adjournment and made choice of William Smith as a Deligate to County Convention

Test Elias Jones Clerk

6. Meeting Dissolved

1891-1892

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1891-1892. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1891-1892, are given in alphabetical order.

1892-1893

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1892-1893. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1892-1893, are given in alphabetical order.

1893-1894

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1893-1894. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1893-1894, are given in alphabetical order.

1894-1895

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1894-1895. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1894-1895, are given in alphabetical order.

1895-1896

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1895-1896. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the Association for the Advancement of Science, for the year 1895-1896, are given in alphabetical order.

November 5th 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned and convened on the 5th of Oct^r. [November?] 1779

1st Made choice of Cap^t. Reuben Hinman Moderator

2nd the Question being put Whether any Part of the Town of Adams Should be annexed to and Incorporated with New Providence it was Carried in the Negative 48 to 24

Meeting Dissolved

November 22nd. 1779

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams Legally warned & convened on the 22nd. Nov^r. 1779

1st. made choice of Cap^t. Reuben Hinman Moderator

2nd. the Question being Put whether New Providence Shall be annexed to and incorporated with the Town of Adams it was carried in the Negative

3rd. Meeting Dissolved

[The next town meeting was held March 20th, 1780.]

Town officers elected in 1780 were :—

Isaac Hathaway, Reuben Hinman, Eneas Parker, Selectmen.
Giles Barnes, Town Clerk.

Reuben Hinman, Town Treasurer.

David Smith, John Kilburn, Ambros Parker, Committee of
Safety.

Isaac Hathaway, Giles Barnes, Luther Rich, Assessors.

Elias Jones, Josiah Holbrook, Jonathan Husse, John Sprague,
Nath^l. Mason, John Eaton, Umphrey Tiffeny, Enos Parker,
Surveyors of Highways.

Daniel Day, Edmund Jincks, Giles Barns, Hog Constables.

CHAPTER II

The first of the two main divisions of the subject is the history of the country. This is divided into three parts: the pre-historic, the historic, and the modern. The pre-historic part deals with the period from the earliest times to the beginning of the Christian era. The historic part deals with the period from the beginning of the Christian era to the present. The modern part deals with the period from the present to the future.

The second of the two main divisions of the subject is the geography of the country. This is divided into two parts: the physical and the political. The physical part deals with the natural features of the country, such as the mountains, rivers, and climate. The political part deals with the human-made features of the country, such as the boundaries, cities, and government.

The third of the two main divisions of the subject is the ethnology of the country. This is divided into two parts: the physical and the cultural. The physical part deals with the physical characteristics of the people, such as their height, weight, and color. The cultural part deals with the cultural characteristics of the people, such as their language, religion, and customs.

May 25th 1780

Voted to pay William Harrendeen 270 Continental dollars to make good the Depreciation of money Due to him as wages for service in the Continental Army

Rates of Jeremiah Ballard, Aaron Luther, Caleb Lippet, James Sprague, Elisha Arnold and Nathaniel Bundy [were abated].

David Jewell and Eleazer Brown were allowed for services as assessors, probably in place of Barnes and Hathaway.

IV. NAMES OF RESIDENTS THE FIRST TEN YEARS.

Names mentioned in the Town Records in 1780 :—

Benjamin Russell	Abraham Lapham	Joseph Smith
Joshua Sprague	Kelly Sherman	Thomas Train
James Green	Stephen Low	Abigail Lock
Abijah Perry	Daniel M ^e Farland	Joseph Bennit
Joab Stafford	Solomon Gardner	Samuel Day

Names in 1781 :—

Jeremiah F. Green	John Lippet	Valentine Bowen
Benjamin Slocum	Jeremiah Brown	David Staples
Ezra Whipple	Francis Harrington	Jonathan Moffet
Shubael Wilmarth	William Ferrand	Samuel Miller
Oliver Parker	Jonathan Richardson	Elial Todd
William Baker	Isaac Hathaway	Simon Smith
Stephen Carpenter		

Names in 1782 :—

Asaph Cook	Abraham Howland	George Staples
William White	Joseph Sole	Comfort Arnold

Names in 1783 :—

Jeremiah Buckland	John Wilmarth	Joseph Powers
Aaron Simmons	John Kilburn	Barnabas Allen

Amasa Ives	Daniel Lapham	William Peters
John Warren	Jeremiah Wilber	Benjamin Read
Joshua Witham	Oliver Parker	Widow Raymond

Names in 1784 :—

Aaron Bowen	Thomas Nichols	Nathan Tucker
Stephen Ives	Caleb Atwater	Samuel Salsbury
Silas Shippee	John Langdon	Thomas Fenner
Robert Hathaway	Sarah Brailey	Betsey Yeaw
Jane Fenner		

Names from 1785 to 1790 :—

Justus Holt	Reuben Hinman	Ambrose Parker
John Kilburn	Amasa Ives	Elial Todd
John Eaton	Jeremiah Collins	Philip Mason
Isaac Arnold	Israel Jones	Luther Rich
David Jewell	Eleazer Brown	Edmund Jencks
Benjamin Baker	William Smith	Jedediah Hurd
William Baker	Elias Jones	Gideon Smith
Jonathan Husse	Stephen Smith	Ruluff White
Oliver Parker	Jonathan Hale	Daniel Sherman
Justus Blakeley	Isaac Hathaway	Samuel Todd
Giles Barnes	Eneas Parker	Joseph Bennett
David Smith	Josiah Holbrook	John Sprague
Nathaniel Mason	Humphrey Tiffany	Enos Parker
David Day	Nathan Comstock	Jeremiah Ballard
Aaron Luther	Caleb Lippet	James Sprague
Elisha Arnold	Nathaniel Bundy	Benjamin Russell
Lemuel Leavensworth	William Harrendeen	

